

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Sanitary Condition**  
ETC., ETC., OF THE  
**Bathavon Rural District**  
FOR THE YEAR 1937,  
BY THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

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Printed by order of the Sanitary Authority.

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# BATHAVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Chairman : COUNCILLOR E. H. MORGAN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. A. SALMON.

Chairman of the Sanitary Committee :

COUNCILLOR W. P. M. WILLCOX.

Chairman of the Plans and Housing Committee :

COUNCILLOR W. R. GOLLEDGE.

Chairman of the Finance Committee :

COUNCILLOR F. S. WHITTUCK.

Chairman of the Rating Committee :

COUNCILLOR H. C. M. HAMBLIN.

Clerk to the Council :

R. H. WHITTINGTON, Solicitor.

Deputy Clerk :

§ S. G. FOXTON PRICE.

Financial Officer :

§ E. E. PEARSE.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. M. HARPER, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H.

Surveyor and Inspector : § F. W. KELWAY, (Bath Area)

Surveyor : § H. W. ARGILE (Keynsham Area)

Inspector : § C. C. AXFORD „ „

Rating Officer : § W. E. ODEY.

§ Full Time Officers.

# VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1937.

## SUMMARY

Acres of Bathavon Rural District	...	...	46,983
Population, estimated at June	...	...	23,110
Average number of persons per house	...	...	3.50
Rateable Value	...	...	£137,930
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£545
Estimated number of houses	...	...	6,977
Death Rate, 1937, Bathavon Rural District	...	...	12.2
Death Rate, 1937, per 1,000 living, England and Wales	...	...	12.4
Birth Rate, 1937, England and Wales	...	...	14.9
Birth Rate, 1937 Bathavon Rural District	...	...	14.2
Infant Death Rate (under 1 year) England and Wales	...	...	58.0
Infant Death Rate (under 1 year) Bathavon Rural District	...	...	49.0
Rainfall (inches)	...	...	32.74
Rainfall, average (65 years, 1866-1930)	...	...	31.04

## RAINFALL, 1937.

CENTRAL STATION, HENRIETTA PARK.

N. Latitude, 51° 23'-8" 5 inch Gauge.

W. Longitude, 2° 21'-14" O.D. 67 feet.

Observations 9 a.m. daily. G.M.T.	Rain and Snow Total Depth in Inches.	Number of days on which Rain fell.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours. Depth.	Date.
January	4.23	21	.61	17th
February	5.00	23	.57	24th
March	4.49	18	.75	10th
April	2.58	16	.66	10th
May	2.28	13	.42	25th
June	1.19	7	.33	13th
July	2.86	11	1.99	15th
August	.94	10	.25	10th
September	2.13	14	.66	16th
October	3.18	11	.77	22nd
November	1.69	10	.43	22nd
December	2.17	21	.45	1st
Totals	32.74	175	—	—

Average rainfall : 30.99" (70 years 1866-1935).

Highest Reading of Barometer, December 27th : 30.715"

Lowest Reading of Barometer, October 23rd : 28.711"

Maximum Temperature, August 6th : 84.9°

Minimum Temperature, November 21st : 21.0°

Mean Temperature of Air : 50.5°

Number of Hours of Sunshine : 1430.2.

Average Sunshine : 1516.6 hrs. (30 years).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BATHAVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

3, GROSVENOR PLACE, BATH.

May, 1938.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my fifth Annual Report of the Bathavon Rural District for the year 1937.

The work as usual of the Council has been very extensive, and constantly increasing in every direction.

The investigation of unfit houses and overcrowding has required a great deal of supervision, and there is much still to accomplish in this direction.

We are now without Saltford and Keynsham, and I must take this opportunity to express my sincere regret that we shall no longer supervise these important districts. The Councillors will be greatly missed by me; no one could have received greater courtesy and assistance than I have from them.

Mr. Golledge, Chairman of the Plans and Housing Committee has always been more than ready to afford me constant help in the many difficulties of housing, especially in regard to the contentious matter of demolition and securing properties for the Council, in order to convert them at small expense into habitable dwelling places.

The Industries are very varied, there being many important factories: Messrs. Fry's, Somerdale, Cocoa and Chocolate; Messrs. Robinson, Keynsham, Paper and Bag Making; Paper Mills at Bathford; Harding's Bag Factory at Batheaston; Chemical Manufacturers: The Polysulphin Company, the R. Edison Company—Two Flock Mills at Freshford and Monkton Combe; Fuller's Earth Works; Harbutt's Plasticine Works. At Northstoke there are Hearn



and Co., and Hawes & Co., Skin Dressers and Fellmongers. I would again suggest that Bye-Laws for the regulation of offensive trades be adopted for the whole District.

The Mining Industry, I am pleased to say, shows some improvement, but there is still a good deal of unemployment among the miners in the district.

As considerable building is being carried on, the work in the stone quarries has been satisfactory.

The new adopted Bye-Laws, with regard to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation have been of very great assistance in abating these unnecessary nuisances on many occasions, and there have been fewer cases of cantravening the Act. I must not omit to render my thanks to the Somerset Police for their ready help and constant supervision.

With regard to Flock Mills, I have to report that all requirements have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

The estimated population for the Bathavon Rural District for the mid-year 1937 is 23,110. This is an increase on last year's figure, which was 22,820.

From a Summary of Returns by the Registrars the number of deaths returned in the 27 parishes amounted to 250, but as 39 of that number include visitors, returns from the Statutory Hospital, violent deaths and suicides, it will be necessary to eliminate these, at the same time adding 91 "Transferable Deaths" of residents who have died outside the district in hospitals or nursing homes etc., making the total given by the Registrar-General 302; 138 males and 164 females. This gives a death-rate of 12.2 per 1,000, the same as last year. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.4; the standardised death rate is 10.2.

The number of births registered was 328; 184 males and 144 females, including 9 illegitimate births; 7 males and 2 females.

This gives the birth rate of 14.2 per 1,000 a decrease on last year. That of England and Wales was 14.9.

There were 15 still-births; 9 males and 6 females.

This included one illegitimate birth.

The births registered during the year are as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Inward transfers ...	67	48	115
Outward transfers ...	16	13	29
	83	61	144
Live Births, Legitimate	177	142	319
„ „ Illegitimate	7	2	9
	Total ...		328

Unfortunately there is an alarmingly diminishing birth rate, although the population still increases by lessened degrees. It is estimated that in 30 years from now the proportion of children under 14 years of age will have fallen 10 per cent., and if the present trends continue, the population of this country a hundred years hence will be half what it is now, and will be in every respect a much older population. In our district, for instance, the birth rate per 1,000 was over 50 years ago more than 30 per cent., and now it has been less than half that figure for a number of years.

The following extracts from the vital statistics are given in the form suggested in the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 1650.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births, Legitimate	319	177	142
Illegitimate	9	7	2
Birth Rate per 1,000, 14.2			

	Total	Male	Female
Still-births ... ..	15	9	6

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 43.7.

Deaths ... ..	328	184	144
Death Rate per 1,000, 12.2.			

## Deaths from puerperal causes :

Puerperal sepsis, Nil; Other puerperal causes, 1.  
Total, 1.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				50
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	36
„ „ Measles	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 16.

This gives a rate, measured by the proportion of births and deaths registered of 49 per 1,000. The rate for England and Wales was 58.

Under one week 9.      One—Four weeks Nil.

One—Six months 5.      Six—Twelve months 2.

Prematurity and Convulsions were as usual the main causes of death.

The deaths occurred in the following parishes :

Batheaston	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Camerton	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hinton Charterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Keynsham	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Monkton Combe	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Southstoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wellow	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Weston	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
					Total	...	16

The following Table indicates the precise causes of death in the Bathavon Rural District during 1937.

	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	3
Diphtheria ... ..	—	1	1
Influenza ... ..	2	7	9
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	3	5	8
Other Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
Syphilis ... ..	1	—	1
General Paralysis of Insane, etc., ... ..	1	—	1
Cancer ... ..	18	18	36
Diabetes ... ..	2	2	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	9	8	17
Heart Disease ... ..	34	42	76
Aneurysm ... ..	—	1	1
Other Circulatory diseases	9	12	21
Bronchitis ... ..	5	9	14
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	5	6	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	2	—	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis ... ..	—	1	1
Other Liver diseases ...	—	1	1
Other Digestive diseases ...	4	6	10
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	10	7	17
Other Puerperal diseases ...	—	1	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	5	8	13
Senility ... ..	2	3	5
Suicide ... ..	2	2	4
Other violence ... ..	6	11	17
Other defined diseases ...	12	9	21
Ill defined or not known ...	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals ...	138	164	302

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SMALLPOX.—No cases have occurred. I much regret that vaccination is still so much neglected.

ENTERIC FEVER (including Typhoid and Paratyphoid).—There were two cases notified.

I am more than gratified to have to report that our district is almost entirely free from this disease. At the present time naturally there has been great anxiety concerning it, especially taking into account the large and fatal epidemic at Croydon, and the limited outbreak which appeared in the Southern part of our county. All contacts have been carefully investigated and followed up, and the County Medical Officer of Health has been most assiduous in controlling and preventing the spread of the disease. I am glad that his efforts have been so successful.

DYSENTERY.—No case has been notified.

DIPHTHERIA.—15 cases have been recorded, with one death. All were removed to Hospital. Considering the number of outbreaks there have been, this is a very limited number.

Supplies of Antitoxin are always available when requested, and I again emphatically urge that to obtain the best results it should be administered very early, and large doses should be used in severe cases before the result of the swabbing is ascertained.

I regret that there has been some delay about carrying immunisation against Diphtheria into effect.

The County Council have given general approval of the principle of a Scheme offering immunisation facilities to the children of Somerset in accordance with proposals submitted by the County Medical Officer of Health.

The proposals are in two parts, *viz* :—

(a) *For children under five years of age.*

Local medical practitioners to carry out the necessary immunisation, the materials being provided by the County Council and a fee paid for the work.



(b) *For children of school age.*

When the child reaches school age, the proposal is that the school doctors should test all children attending public elementary schools (unless the parents object) using the simple Schick test and then offer to immunise all those found to be susceptible.

Dr. Andrew Topping, of the L.C.C. stated that diphtheria kills about 3,000 children every year in this country, and if compulsory immunisation was universally adopted, diphtheria would completely disappear.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—No cases were reported, but under other puerperal diseases there was one death.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.—One case was recorded. This disease appears to be very little prevalent in this part of the country.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No cases were notified. On account of this fact there was no opportunity for local authorities to act according to Circular 1621 in making arrangements for assisting in the prevention of blindness.

Circular No. 1596 relates to Ophthalmia Neonatorum ammended regulations 1937, which came into operation April 1st, 1937.

PNEUMONIA (All Forms).—Caused 11 deaths, 5 males and 6 females.

ERYSIPELAS.—4 cases occurred, one of which was removed to Hospital.

SCARLET FEVER.—Only 18 cases were reported; 13 of that number were removed to Hospital. There were no deaths, and the disease, as it has been for the last few years, was an extremely mild type.

INFLUENZA in the early part of the year was prevalent; there were nine deaths, 2 males and 7 females. Shoscombe School was closed in February owing to this disease.

MEASLES.—We have had the usual outbreak of Measles, appearing as an epidemic every few years, but I am pleased to state it has been of a very mild type.

It is gratifying to know that the parents show much greater care in the nursing and protection of their children.

On different occasions there has been a certain amount of controversy about again adopting Notification. I wish to state that it will afford very little or no assistance in abating or shortening the outbreak.

The reports from the schools of absent children, and the cause of it have been quite satisfactory, and appear to be all that is necessary.

Measles now rank with Diphtheria as a fully controllable disease though the method of control is totally different and the age form of immunity which can be produced artificially is passive.

What is perhaps more important is the fact that immune human serum will completely prevent an attack if given during the first five days after exposure.

At present no local action in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation has been taken in the district.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This disease caused 3 deaths, 2 males and 1 female.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and mortality during the year.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
20	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	2	1	—	—	2	3	—	—
45	2	2	—	1	—	1	1	—
55	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	7	1	4	3	5	1	1

There were 8 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis, 3 males and 5 females. It is satisfactory that the numbers in our district are still falling; fourteen cases were notified.

Other Tuberculosis disease—Five cases were notified, there were 2 deaths, 1 male and 1 female.

The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 and Section 62 of Public Health Act, 1925.

As no case arose under either of the above Acts, the Authority was not required to take action.

The Tuberculosis Care Committee meet regularly, and continue their good work under the chairmanship of Miss Date, great interest being shown in the reported cases.

The distribution of the cases were as follows :—



Parish	S. Fever	Diphtheria	Pul. Tuberculosis	Other forms	Pneumonia	Erysipelis	Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid)	Acute Polymyelitis	Totals
Bathampton	...	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	2
Batheaston	I	4	I	I	...	...	...	...	7
Bathford	...	...	I	...	...	I	...	...	2
Camerton	I	2	2	...	I	...	...	...	6
Charlcombe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Claverton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Combe Hay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Compton Dando	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Corston	2	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dunkerton	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Englishcombe	I	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	2
Freshford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hinton C'house	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kelston	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	I
Keynsham	I	2	2	2	4	...	I	...	12
Marksbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monkton Combe	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	I
Newton St. Loe	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	I
Northstoke	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Priston	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Saltford	...	...	3	...	...	I	...	...	4
Southstoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swainswick	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	I	2
Wellow	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Weston	...	6	2	I	I	...	...	...	10
Witchurch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	18	15	14	5	7	4	2	1	66

Diseases.		Total Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	18	13	—
Diphtheria	...	15	15	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	7	1	11
Erysipelas	...	4	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid B)	...	2	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	1	—

### NON-INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

CANCER.—There were 36 deaths, 18 males and 18 females.

The Local Authorities do what they can with regard to the National Radium Centres, but still greater advantage could be taken of these centres of modern treatment.

HEART DISEASES.—There were 76 deaths, 34 males and 42 females; 13 more cases than last year.

### FOOD.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported. The public being very well served. It must be pointed out that poisoning can be conveyed by raw milk. Cleanliness alone can convey safety.

The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, provide that no person who is aware that he is suffering from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Tract, shall enter upon any employment in connection with the Dairy, which would involve the milking of cows, and the handling of vessels used for containing milk. The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 provides for the prohibition of any person who is suffering from infectious disease, or who has recently been in contact with a case of infectious disease, from milking cows, or taking part in the storage of milk, etc., until all danger has ceased.

### The Fly Peril.

Fly time begins in May, therefore every member of the community must be ready at once to erradicate these pests; this being a most exigent and pressing duty.

Flies being implicated as carriers of Tuberculosis, Ophthalmia, Spinal Meningitis, Epidemic Dysentery and other diseases—as contaminators of food there was not a living thing in the whole world that could in any way approach the fly. On this account strict precautions against these dangers should in no way be lessened. Sick rooms and larders should be protected, covered dustbins always used, and shopkeepers should be urged to carry out greater protection for all foodstuffs.

It is stated by Lieut. Alfred Moore, of the Council of the Institute of Pestology, that it is possible with one season's breeding (which is three months) for a pair of flies to produce sixty three tons of their offspring.

### **Milk.**

Number of Producers on the Register ... ..	263
Number of Distributors divided as follows :—	

(A) Distributors only ... ..	24
------------------------------	----

(B) Distributors who are also Producers ... ..	102
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There are 8 farms producing Tuberculin Tested Milk and 32 farms producing Accredited Milk. The collection of samples for examination is carried out by your officials and as afternoon samples cannot be delivered at the Laboratory in time to be examined on the same day, it is therefore necessary for the inspectors to obtain early morning samples before the usual office hours. Over 150 samples were submitted for examination during the year. The increase in the number of Accredited Producers has resulted in a large number of cowsheds being reconstructed, drained and otherwise brought up to date.

### **PASTEURISATION.**

A great controversy is going on with regard to Pasteurisation of Milk, and the Government is still considering the difficult legislation with the milk policy generally, and it will be gratifying when some satisfactory result is obtained.

The medical profession being strongly in favour of Pasteurisation, regarding that no raw milk can be safe for human consumption unless adequately pasteurised or

boiled. They emphasise that pasteurisation does not make dirty milk clean—it only makes all milk safe, and it should never be regarded as a substitute for, but as a supplement to hygienic methods of production.

### **Water Supplies.**

The Bath Corporation, the West Gloucester Water Company, the Combe Down Water Company and the Norton Radstock Council who supply a large area of the District all kept up a very good service throughout the year. The Marksbury scheme is nearly completed and water will be available probably by the end of April, 1938. The cost of this scheme is about £1,090.

The enlarged Peasedown scheme to Tunley and Meadgate is in full operation. The cost of this scheme is £10,196. A grant of £1,750 was received from the Ministry.

The rural supplies were satisfactory and no shortage occurred.

### **Floods.**

We have had no anxieties with regard to flooding in the District. The rainfall of 1937 was extraordinary in many ways. In the first five months the rainfall exceeded the normal, then came months of deficiency, but the year's total of rain exceeded the normal by a substantial margin.

### **HOUSING.**

The Council erected eight new houses under the Rehousing Scheme, namely, four at Combe Down and four at Saltford. Ten others were in course of erection at the end of the year, while preparations were in hand for building on four other sites.

Much work has been done throughout the year in connection with the acquisition of sites, and preliminary plans for the laying out of them and others in the Council's possession. Consents under the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act have been obtained where necessary, and also the approval of the Town Planning Committee.

Something like 50 site plans have been prepared in this preliminary work, in addition to layout plans for the County Council and Town Planning Committee.

Two hundred and twenty one houses have been built by private enterprise during the year. They were erected in the following parishes :—

Bathampton	...	...	...	9
Batheaston	...	...	...	8
Bathford	...	...	...	9
Camerton	...	...	...	1
Charlcombe	...	...	...	4
Claverton	...	...	...	1
Corston	...	...	...	3
Englishcombe	...	...	...	2
Hinton Charterhouse	...	...	...	2
Keynsham	...	...	...	54
Marksbury	...	...	...	1
Monkton Combe	...	...	...	7
Saltford	...	...	...	17
Southstoke	...	...	...	7
Swainswick	...	...	...	4
Wellow	...	...	...	5
Weston	...	...	...	11
Whitchurch	...	...	...	76
				<hr/> 221 <hr/>

#### NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

##### (i) By Local Authority

###### With State Assistance—

(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	8
(b) Overcrowding	...
(c) Other	...

Without State Assistance—	...
---------------------------	-----

##### (ii) By other bodies or persons

(a) With State Assistance	...
(b) Without State Assistance	...



## HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	85
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	273
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	42
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	88
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	25
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	27

## HOUSING ACTION.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of <i>informal</i> action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	15
---	----

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	4
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—						
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	...		4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners						Nil
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.						
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...				11
2.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...				11
3.	Clearance Orders made	...	...	...			Nil
4.	Clearance Orders confirmed	...	...	...			Nil
	(a) Number of houses involved	...	...				Nil
	(b) Number of houses demolished	...					Nil

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING—

(A)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	44
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...				45
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				271½
(B)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...		12
(C)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...		25
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases					139½
(D)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding					Nil
(E)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	...		Nil

PARISH.			Product of 1d.		Houses built from	New	Houses	Pop.
					Apr. 1931- Dec. 1937	Houses 1937	Apr. 1931- Dec. 1937	
Bathampton	...	33	0	0	103	9		676
Batheaston	...	46	0	0	87	8	2	1513
Bathford	...	24	0	0	52	9		871
Camerton	...	17	0	0	1	1	2	2003
Charlcombe	...	10	0	0	8	4		323
Claverton	...	15	0	0	12	1		491
Combe Hay	...	3	10	0				158
Dunkerton	...	7	0	0	3			630
Englishcombe	...	4	11	0	11	2		355
Freshford	...	12	11	0	1			499
Hinton Charterhouse		7	5	0	8	2		390
Monkton Combe		43	0	0	35	7	5	1711
St. Catherine	...	4	0	0	2			97
Southstoke	...	15	0	0	21	7		422
Swainswick	...	20	0	0	97	4	4	559
Wellow	...	21	0	0	32	5	2	1754
Weston	...	29	0	0	88	11	13	1579
Compton Dando		6	0	0				480
Corston	...	7	8	0	3	3		368
Kelston	...	3	8	0				181
Keynsham	...	143	0	0	266	54		4521
Marksbury	...	4	4	0	1	1		306
Newton St. Loe	...	8	6	0				270
Northstoke	...	2	0	0				99
Priston	...	2	13	0	2			225
Saltford	...	36	0	0	130	17	1	922
Whitchurch	...	19	14	0	165	76		821

### Town Planning.

Under the Bristol No. 3 Town Planning Scheme 76 Interim Development Certificates were issued and 5 were refused.

This scheme has now reached the Draft Stage.

Under the Bath and District Scheme 68 Interim Development Certificates were issued and 11 were refused.

### Schools.

These have been quite satisfactory, no special work being required, and the managers are striving to keep them quite up-to-date.



At Bathford, Shoscombe and Wellow Schools the obsolete trough closets should be replaced with modern appliances.

There was only one School closed during the year, this was Shoscombe St. Julian. Closed by Dr. Savage from 9th of February to the 19th owing to Influenza.

### **Hospitals, etc.**

The Royal United Hospital is most satisfactory with its up-to-date equipment, more patients being admitted. Residents nearer Bristol are encouraged to go to the Bristol Royal Infirmary and Bristol General Hospital.

With regard to Isolation Hospitals the same arrangements are being carried out with the City of Bath for the accommodation of infectious cases in the vicinity, and this has been of great assistance with the splendid extensions and much improved transport.

The Paulton Isolation Hospital continues to do useful service for the part of the district which it serves, and I much appreciate the work that it accomplishes.

The Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital at Freshford continues to carry on most efficient work in the neighbourhood, and is always full.

The Combe Down Convalescent Home and the Grange Nursing Home, Keynsham, are great additions.

Home Nursing is carried on by the Somerset County Nursing Association. There are resident nurses in many of the Parishes, and several visiting nurses.

### **Rat and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.**

Occupiers should realise that the onus of ridding lands and premises falls upon them, and not upon the local authority, who are always ready to give advice and provide baits when required. If they bear this in mind they will save the authorities a great deal of time.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

At the Keynsham Sewage Disposal Works the prolonged wet winter of 1936-1937 severely taxed the extended sludge drying beds and the infiltration of surface water was

also a source of trouble, but as a whole the works have continued to give satisfactory results.

Almost throughout the year protracted negotiations have been carried on with regard to the flushing chamber at the reconstructed crossing of the river Chew by syphon, and it was only at the end of the year that agreement was reached. The cost of installing a separate lighting cable for the High Level Pumping Station was amply justified, the charge for lighting through the meter being a mere fraction of the previous standing charge.

At Whitchurch some further forty older properties have been connected to the sewerage system, so that good progress has been made in this direction.

A considerable length of new sewer has been laid by Estate Developers in Keynsham, Saltford and Whitchurch. Extensions to sewers have also been carried out at Bath-easton, Monkton Combe, Swainswick and Weston.

During the year sewers and drains have been laid in the following parishes:—

	Nine inch.	Six inch.	Four inch.
Bathampton			30 yds.
Batheaston		420 yds.	340 "
Bathford			370 "
Camerton			30 "
Claverton			75 "
Charlcombe			35 "
Corston			236 "
Dunkerton			50 "
Freshford			46 "
Hinton Charterhouse			40 "
Keynsham	188 yds.	681 "	1976 "
Marksbury			84 "
Monkton Combe			235 "
Saltford	137 "	249 "	721 "
Southstoke			95 "
Swainswick			120 "
Wellow			76 "
Weston		200 "	160 "
Whitchurch		1367 "	3909 "
	325 yds.	2917 yds.	8628 yds.

### **The Brooks.**

We receive from time to time, complaints of their condition, but if the public would persist from throwing all kinds of rubbish into them, greater facilities would be afforded for keeping them cleansed.

The authority continue to have them cleansed from time to time.

### **Public Lavatories.**

These are in good condition, and the walls have been defaced less.

### **House Refuse.**

Your Authority removes by Contract, the house refuse from the following districts :—

BATHEASTON, KEYNSHAM and WESTON; which have weekly collections.

BATHAMPTON, COMBE DOWN, MONKTON COMBE VILLAGE, LOWER SWAINSWICK and WHITCHURCH have fortnightly collections.

BATHFORD, UPPER SWAINSWICK, PEASEDOWN, SALT-FORD, QUEEN CHARLTON, COMPTON DANDO, CHEWTON

KEYNSHAM, MARKSBURY and STANTON PRIOR have collections every fourth week.

CORSTON has a collection every two months.

PRISTON has a collection Quarterly.

### **Slaughter Houses, etc.**

Licensed	...	...	6
Registered	...	...	16
			—
Total			22
			—

Three of this number are only used occasionally. They are of a type usually found in rural areas. The main supply of meat comes from the neighbouring towns, Bath and Bristol.

There is no market or public place where meat is exposed for sale, or any factory dealing with food.

The total weight of meat condemned by the Inspectors as unfit for human consumption was :

5 tons, 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 4 lbs.

*Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1117	1150	100	2602	935
Number inspected	842	870	76	2010	708
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	2	13	—	8	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	.23 p.c.	1.60 p.c.	—	.44 p.c.	.14 p.c.
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	13	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	7	148	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	.83 p.c.	18.50 p.c.	—	—	—

**General Notes.**

The Public Conveniences at Keynsham and Weston have suffered less from mischief than in previous years, though on two occasions definite damage was deliberately done at Keynsham.

Pressure of other work prevented the launching of the usual painting of Council properties until the end of the year, but this has the advantage of finding winter work for painters and decorators.

178 new buildings were in course of erection at the end of the year. Well over 300 jobbing repairs were put in hand. Upwards of 2,000 inspections of building work were made. Over 300 tests of 4-in. and 6-in. drains to new buildings were carried out by smoke and water.

## Factories and Workshops.

### INDUSTRIES.

Paper Making	Plasticine			
Flock Manufacture	Fuller's Earth			
Two Coal Mines	Cocoa and Chocolate Making			
Small Stone Quarries	Wholesale Stationery			
Colour Works	Agriculture			
Log-Wood Mills	Lime Kilns			
Inspections of Factories including	Laundries	...		16
Inspections of Workshops	...	...	...	38
Inspections of Work places	...	...	...	14
	Defects.		Remedied.	
Sanitary Accommodation	2		2	
Lack of Ventilation	—		—	
Cleansing and Whitewashing	3		3	
Want of Drainage	1		1	

There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

No lists of outworkers received.

### Smoke Abatement.

We have had no trouble in any way with smoke arising from chimneys in the District, and have not received any complaints.

### Disposal of the Dead.

The new Cemetery at Hay Combe Farm, S.E. of Twerton Roundill is most satisfactory, and the Arno's Vale Crematorium is more constantly in use than ever.

Nothing further has been carried out with regard to a Public Mortuary. Committee Meetings have been held but matters are still in abeyance. The Bath Fire Brigade continue to carry out very useful work and afford every assistance.

### SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1937.

- 4244 Notices, letters, &c., delivered and posted.
- 32 Defects remedied in sewers and drains.
- 7 Nuisances from closets abated.
- 4 Nuisances from cesspools abated.



- 10 Water supplies to houses remedied.
- 187 Visits to houses after infectious diseases.
- 146 Cases of Tuberculosis in the district.
- 12 Samples of water analysed.
- 170 Samples of milk examined.
- 25 Repairs to water supplies, &c., remedied.
- 42 Accumulations dealt with.
- 530 Notices to limewash cowsheds, &c.
- 3 Nuisances from animals dealt with.
- 77 Petroleum licences issued.
- 28 Bakehouse inspections.

I desire to thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Members of the Council for their ready assistance, and co-operation in all sanitary matters.

I have had, as usual, the cordial assistance of the Surveyors and their staffs.

Messrs. F. W. Kelway, H. W. Argile and C. C. Axford are always ready to give any help when required.

J. MAURICE HARPER,  
M.O.H., D.P.H.



